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*****DUNCAN, GINGRICH AND SHARPTON VISIT TO BALTIMORE
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS HIGHLIGHTS NEED TO CHANGE
STATE'S CHARTER POLICY*****

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan, along with former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and civil rights leader Al Sharpton, will visit two high-performing Baltimore public charter schools on Friday, November 13. The three education leaders are scheduled to visit KIPP Ujima Village Academy and Hampstead Hill Academy. Baltimore is the second city Secretary Duncan, Mr. Gingrich and Rev. Sharpton will tour this fall to expose educational challenges, highlight bold reforms and rally support for greater transparency and accountability in all schools.

"It is exciting to have two of Baltimore's excellent charter schools highlighted as a part of the tremendous education reforms Baltimore City Schools have seen over the past few years," said David N. Miller, Director of the Maryland Charter School Network. "We hope this visit will emphasize the need to create better policy in the state, specifically in the areas of providing more facilities opportunities and greater autonomy for charter schools."

WHAT & WHEN:

10:40 a.m. Friday, Nov. 13: KIPP-Ujima Village Academy
4701 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore
Library visit, conversation w students- OPEN PRESS

2:00 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13: Visit Hampstead Hill Academy
500 S Linwood Ave., Baltimore
Press Conference- OPEN PRESS

ABOUT

KIPP Ujima Village Academy (KUVA) is a public charter school serving over 330 students in grades 5-8. KUVA is located in the Roland Patterson building at 4701 Greenspring Ave. Students attend school for up to 9.5 hours per day, as well as three weeks in the summer. For their high school years, KUVA students go on to attend competitive programs including, private schools, parochial schools and boarding schools across the country. During its seven years in operation, KUVA has been ranked as the highest performing public middle school in Baltimore City.

Hampstead Hill Academy is a public charter school operated by the

*****MORE*****

Baltimore Curriculum Project serving 525 PreK-8th grade students. Emphasizing fluency and accuracy in reading, Hampstead Hill Academy focuses on knowledge, rigor and mastery in their instructional program. More than half of HHA 8th graders are admitted to Baltimore's selective public high schools.

Baltimore is home to 33 public charter schools, enrolling 8,300 students, nearly 10% of Baltimore's public schools population. Baltimore City is seen as a growing center for education reform models under CEO Dr. Andres A. Alonso.

About the Maryland Charter School Network

MCSN is a non-partisan, nonprofit, statewide organization whose mission is to promote and serve the Maryland charter school movement. For more information about the Maryland Charter School Network, please call 800-689-3795 or visit www.mdcharternetwork.org .

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